

REMARKS

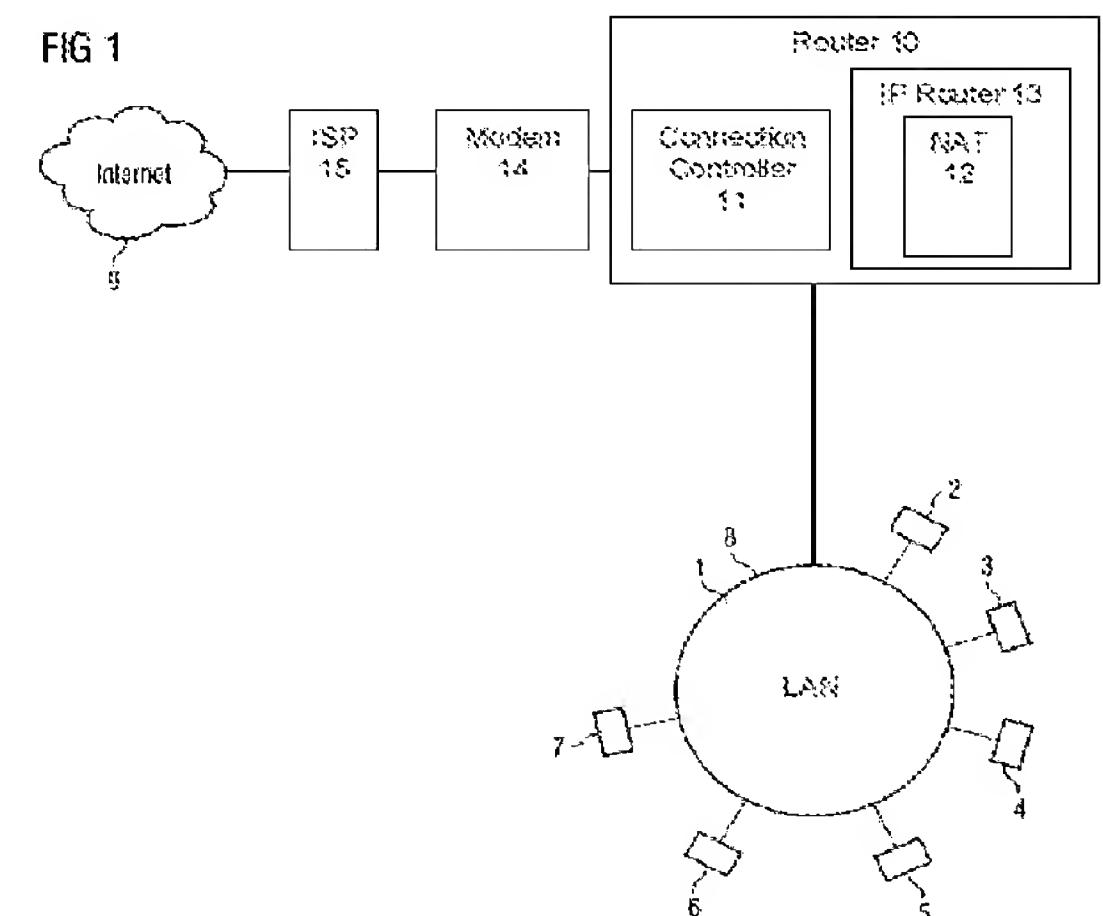
Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 19-30 remain pending, wherein claims 19, 27-30 are amended.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank Examiners Sekul and Mattis for their time and courtesy during the personal interview conducted with the undersigned on June 29, 2010. The following summarizes the issues discussed during the personal interview.

Claim 27 is objected to for a minor informality and claims 27 and 30 are rejected for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 27 and 30 are amended to address the objection and rejections, and this objection and rejection should be withdrawn.

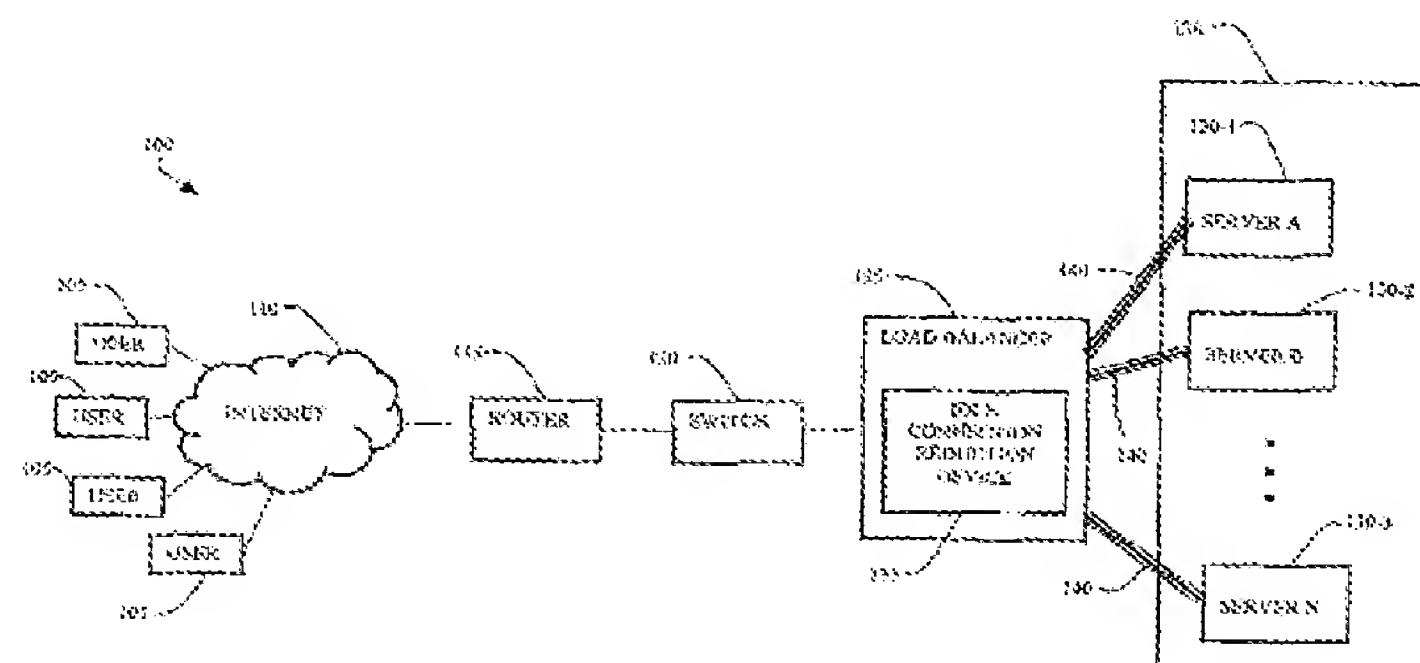
Claims 19-30 are rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combination of O'Toole and Zhang. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 is amended to recite the use of global and local addresses by a communication apparatus. Referring, for illustrative purposes, to FIG. 1 of the present application (reproduced on the right), claim 19 recites monitoring the use of local addresses for terminals on the LAN and sending a message indicative of non-usage to a connection controller, which then determines whether to release the global address and a connection to another network (e.g., the Internet).



The monitoring of local addresses for non-usage and releasing of the global address due to non-usage of the local addresses resolves the “short-hold” problem of conventional systems in which unwanted packets are received for devices on the LAN, which can occur, for example, when a user closes a browsing application. Compared to conventional systems that continue to maintain the connection between the router and the Internet even when the terminal to which the packets are addressed does not respond to the unwanted packets, the present invention decreases connection costs, increases security and provides for more efficient use of global IP addresses.

The combination of O'Toole and Zhang does not render claim 19 obvious because the combination does not disclose or suggest releasing a global address to another network due to non-usage of local addresses. Referring to FIGURE 1 of O'Toole (reproduced below), O'Toole discloses a load balancing system that monitors connections 140 to servers 130-1 through 130-3 and releases the connections to the servers for load balancing purposes.



O'Toole does not disclose or suggest releasing the global address due to non-usage of local addresses by the servers. Indeed, the servers of O'Toole are providing information to users 105 of the Internet 110, and accordingly the global address should be maintained so that the users can access the servers. In

contrast, in Applicant's claim 19 the local addresses are of terminals, and not of servers, and the global address is released based on non-usage of the local addresses of the terminals.

Zhang is cited for the disclosure of a network address translator (NAT), but does not remedy the above-identified deficiencies of O'Toole with respect to claim 19. Independent claims 27 and 29 are amended to recite similar elements to those discussed above with regard to claim 19, and are patentably distinguishable for similar reasons. Claims 20-26, 28 and 30 are patentably distinguishable at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 19-30 for obviousness be withdrawn.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 105247.57619US.

July 6, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

/Stephen W. Palan, Reg. # 43,420/
Stephen W. Palan
Registration No. 43,420

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2710
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
SWP:crr